

Current Status – ESSC Project

October 31, 2007

The Enterprise Systems Services Centers (ESSC) Project is moving forward. Recent efforts have focused on two crucial “start-up tasks”:

1. Selection of the design consultant and construction management team has been completed. From a field of 14 teams that responded to the State solicitation for proposals, the team is lead by A & E Architects of Billings with GPD, Inc. of Great Falls, Robert Peccia & Assoc. of Helena providing electrical/mechanical engineering, and civil engineering, respectively. The team also includes Total Site Solutions of Columbia, Maryland for data center design consulting. TSS has designed and built over 2,500 data centers around the world. TSS also offers a data center move project planning service that we are including in the initial engagement. Contract negotiations between the team and the State are nearing completion.
2. Site selection is being worked on and is taking the majority of our focus, especially the Eastern Montana ESSC site. ITSD and Architecture & Engineering Division team members have visited sites in three communities: Miles City, Billings and Forsyth. A wide range of real property, security, infrastructure, economic development and cost details are being gathered and assessed. We anticipate that public input will be sought on the candidate communities and sites in coming weeks. The process for selecting a site is requiring more time than originally anticipated and our November 1 target for selection obviously will go unmet. I anticipate that it will be several more weeks before a site is selected.

We have done some work on the Helena site selection. We have had preliminary meetings with MDT officials to discuss site alternatives on their property east of I-15. City of Helena site standards are being researched by the civil engineers. Their requirements could have a significant cost impact on various alternatives within the MDT site.

For additional information please contact the Department of Administration, Information Technology Services Division at (406) 444-2700.